GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5541
ANSWERED ON:29.08.2001
SCHEME FOR SEX WORKERS
SURESH RAMRAO JADHAV (PATIL)

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to start some schemes for employment and income generation for the sex workers in order to encourage them to reintegrate into the society;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the fresh steps taken by the Government to eradicate child prostitution and their rehabilitation?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI)

(a) & (b) The Government is attempting to bring about an overall improvement in the status of women and children especially the girl child through better education, health care and economic empowerment of women. Schemes for employment and income generation like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Support to Training and Employment Programme (STEP), Setting up of employment-cum income generating units for women (NORAD), Socio-Economic Programme (SEP), Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK Swaran Jayanti Rozgar Yojana (SJRY) etc. are implemented especially in areas of high supply of victims of prostitution and for rehabilitation of rescued victims of prostitution. The Government also supports an extensive network of Short Stay Homes and homes set up under the Juvenile Justice Act for protection and rehabilitation of the victims of prostitution.

(c) The government of India constituted a Central Advisory Committee on Child prostitution. The recommendations made by the Committee have been sent to the concerned Central Ministries/States/UTs for implementation. The States/UTs have also set up State Advisory Committees and are taking action to notify special police officers and Advisory Boards of social workers and NGOs in red light areas. The Government of India has also formulated a Plan of Action to combat trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of women and children in 1998 and have requested the States to plan suitable interventions to operationalize the plan.

The amendment of the Immoral Traffic (Prevention) Act, 1956 is under way for making punishment for traffickers more stringent and putting greater criminal liability on them. In order to check inter-country trafficking, the SAARC countries have drafted a Convention on combating the crime of trafficking in women and children for prostitution and to promote and foster effective regional cooperation to deal with the various aspects of the problem. The draft protocol is awaiting ratification.